



JOURNAL  
DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE

From : 0001 30 November 1944  
To : 2400 7 December 1944  
Place: France.

30 November 1944 - Thursday.

Front line elements reported no change in the situation. Enemy activity throughout the period consisted mainly of sporadic medium and heavy artillery fire on all forward units and some patrol activity was noted during the night 29 - 30 November in Combat Command A Sector. In general, the advance was delayed by blown bridges, mines, and anti-tank ditches across the route of advance. Admissions to our medical installations were 28 wounded and 30 exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 2 wounded and 10 combat exhaustion cases and we transferred to hospitals 27 wounded and 25 combat exhaustion cases.

Our platoon of the 16th Field Hospital moved from Cutting to Fenetrange and will open at 1100, 1 December.

We lost 2 more aid men today from the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment, one killed in action and one wounded in action.

Major Frank checked all surrounding hospitals for personnel ready to return to duty. The results of these actions in checking the hospitals are highly satisfactory. We are able to return to duty a great number of the personnel, 10 to 14 days earlier than they would ordinarily be returned through replacement channels. Also, we are able to bring back key personnel in this manner. A great number of specialists necessary in an Armored Division make this highly necessary. This system has been in operation ever since the start of operations.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 4; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated one prisoner of war casualty today.

1 December 1944 - Friday.

Forward elements of Combat Command A encountered light machine gun, small arms, mortar and artillery fire in seizing high ground in the vicinity of Mack-willer. Intermittent artillery fire fell on forward elements and the advance of Combat Command A and B was opposed by very heavy artillery fire, also small arms, mortar, and machine gun fire, supported by tanks on 1 December. The enemy launched a counterattack in the vicinity of Rimsdorf which was repulsed and our elements moved on to their objectives. Casualties for today were 59 wounded and 48 exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 2 wounded and 24 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 57 wounded and 42 combat exhaustion cases.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion moved to Drulingen. Company B, 46th Medical Battalion moved to Wolfskirchen. Headquarters and Company C, 46th Medical Battalion remained at Dieuze. Our Field Hospital platoon remained at Penetrance.

One aid man replacement was received today and sent to the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment. We are approximately 25 aid men short in the detachments within the division.

We lost in the 35th Tank Battalion Medical Detachment four men today and in the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment seven men. This makes a total of eleven aid men short in these two detachments alone.

Since the start of operations the casualty rate among medical department personnel has been very high. It is hard to take the loss of this trained personnel. Replacements are very often incapable of rendering even first aid. We have tried to keep our personnel with high IQ ratings and specialized knowledge from work as aid men, however, it is impossible to protect this personnel from casualty due to the fact that our casualties come mainly from artillery fire.

Monthly Statistical Report 86c was consolidated and sent forward to higher headquarters.

Our program of having detachments make out a "part" 51 MD Report of Sick and Wounded places greater burden of work on the staff of the Division Surgeon's Office but permits us greater accuracy in the rendition of this report, and most important, relieves the hard pressed medical detachments from this work. At best, conditions in the detachments in the field are not conducive to the rendition of satisfactory reports.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 8th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 5; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 9; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated two prisoner of war casualties today.

2 December 1944 - Saturday.

Combat Command B reported contact with the enemy Northwest of Rinsdorf and Northeast of Rinsdorf. Combat Command A reported contact West and Southwest of Diemeringen. The 25th Cavalry reported contact East of Harskirchen. Enemy patrols were active in all forward areas on night 1 - 2 December. Heavy sporadic artillery fire was received during the night. Enemy counterattacked with tanks and infantry in the vicinity of Mackwiller and Diemeringen and was repulsed. An enemy attack on Rinsdorf from direction of Domfessel with tanks and infantry was also repulsed. Approximately 30 to 40 tanks were very active during entire period and were encountered both in support of infantry elements and alone, which delayed the advance of both Combat Command A and B. Casualties for today were 68 wounded and 98 combat exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 1 wounded and 21 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals 64 wounded and 66 combat exhaustion cases.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion, moved to the vicinity of Weyer.

Major Frank and Major Hugunin visited Forward Echelon. Major Hugunin re-joined Colonel Abrams at Forward Echelon.

Again we report the difficulty of evacuation during this period of inclement weather. It is impossible to use our  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton jeep ambulances in open terrain. They must stop on a hard surfaced road and casualties must be brought from the field to them at this point. We are still using tanks and half tracks for evacuation of casualties from the forward parts of the battalions.



The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 3.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated nine prisoner of war casualties today.

3 December 1944 - Sunday.

Combat Command A reported contact Southeast of Domfessel. Combat Command B reported contact Northeast Sarre Union and Southwest Domfessel. The 25th Cavalry patrols entered outskirts of Harskirchen. Enemy artillery continued active during the period with numerous concentrations of heavy and medium artillery on forward elements of both Combat Command A and B. Enemy patrols were active in Combat Command A sector during the night. Elements of Combat Command B encountered some infantry and tank opposition in their advance. Casualties today were 38 wounded and 54 exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 3 wounded and 8 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 34 wounded and 52 combat exhaustion cases.

Notice was received today to stop the issue and use of all blood plasma labeled Benvenue. The 46th Medical Battalion and all unit surgeons were notified of this stoppage.

The 51st Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment is now short four aid men and the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment is short two aid men.

No change was reported in the locations of our medical companies.

Battalion Surgeons are reporting that the replacements they are receiving are not of the calibre they desire. The men are not trained in aid work and find it extremely difficult to acclimate themselves to the work in the Battalion Aid Station.

The 35th Tank Battalion Medical Detachment is five men understrength and has been sent five men on temporary duty by the Combat Command A Surgeon.

The Monthly Sanitary Report was completed and forwarded to higher headquarters today.

Major Frank and Captain Kierscht began the immunization today of the Administrative Center with the stimulating dose of Typhus Vaccine.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 3; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 2.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated three prisoner of war casualties today.



4 December 1944 - Monday.

Combat Command B counterattacked by undetermined number of tanks supported by heavy artillery West of Domfessel. The attack was repulsed without loss of ground. Sporadic artillery fire received by all forward elements and the enemy continued to delay the advance of Combat Command A and B with small arms, artillery,

mortar, and anti-tank fire. Enemy tanks continued to be very active in the entire sector and were encountered both in support of infantry and alone. The weather continued to be cloudy with intermittent rain, the maximum temperature being in the 40's and the minimum in the 30's. There were no improvements in traffic abilities. The mud is still very deep and makes our problems more complex. Casualties admitted today were 49 wounded and 115 combat exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 5 wounded and 7 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 41 wounded and 98 combat exhaustion cases.

Reserve Company of the 46th Medical Battalion, (C Company), still carries approximately 125 patients daily. Approximately 20 to 30 men are returned to duty daily from this company. A total of thirteen Trench Foot cases are being treated here. Since these cases of Trench Foot are not severe we are trying to see if we can treat these men in our own medical installation and salvage them for early return to duty. During the period 9 November 30 November inclusive the Reserve Medical Company has returned a total of 522 men to duty.

Captain Buchanan, Battalion Surgeon of the 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was injured when his vehicle ran over a mine. He sustained a simple fracture of the right arm and contusions. Major Frank has made arrangements to return him to light duty as soon as possible.

Third Army directive has again given us permission to put the Red Cross on the helmets of medical department personnel. The following is an extract of paragraph 2, Section II, of the above mentioned directive:

- "2. When action is taken under authority contained in paragraph 1, Section II, Circular 85, Headquarters Third U. S. Army, dated 2 December 1944, the Red Cross will be painted on the helmets and liner of protected medical personnel possessing a certificate of identity (WD AGO Form No. 65-10). The cross will be painted on four (4) sides starting at the center of the front of the helmet and liner and spaced equidistant around the exterior. The dimensions of the cross will be four (4) inches long and one (1) inch wide in a white circle four (4) inches in diameter, the bottom of the circle to be one (1) inch above the brim. The Medical Department US Army number will be painted in white on the top of the helmet and liner. This number must agree with the identity card issued to the individual."

Our operations since crossing the Saar River have been extremely slow. Stubborn resistance by the enemy and muddy terrain has made all our problems so much more complex.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 46th Medical Battalion - 1; 35th Tank Battalion - 5; 37th Tank Battalion - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 4; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1; 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated one prisoner of war casualty today.

5 December 1944 - Tuesday.

The division's forward elements reported contact with the enemy in the vicinity

of Dehlingen. Combat Command B and A reported very little artillery fire. Enemy patrols were active in the vicinity of Voellerdingen and Domfessel. The advance of Combat Command A and B encountered no enemy resistance in the morning and early afternoon, however, some delaying forces resisted their advance later in the afternoon. The enemy executed a general withdrawal from our zone during the night of 4-5 December to undetermined positions. Casualties for today were 26 wounded and 85 combat exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 2 wounded and 8 combat exhaustions and transferred to hospitals 21 wounded and 69 combat exhaustion cases.

The 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment lost three more aid men, one killed in action, one missing in action, and one wounded in action. They are short fourteen aid men but are functioning with the aid of temporary replacements from the Medical Company.

Captain Ray, Dental Corps, was relieved from the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment and went on temporary duty with the medical battalion. This is in keeping with our present policy of keeping our dentists with the Medical Battalion where they can do the most good. We have now removed Dental Surgeons from both Combat Commands, the three Infantry Battalions, and Division Artillery.

Major Frank and Captain Kierscht continued with the immunization of replacements who are still needing a stimulating dose of typhus Vaccine. Approximately 400 replacements were immunized. This necessitated a check of the Service Records of all replacements to determine whether they were eligible for the stimulating dose or not. In this way we alleviated the Battalion Surgeon's work and trouble.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 2; 37th Tank Battalion - 4; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated five prisoner of war casualties today.

6 December 1944 - Wednesday.

Combat Command A reported contact with the enemy in vicinity of Bining. Combat Command B reported contact at Singling. The 37th Tank Battalion encountered heavy enemy tank opposition West of Bining late in the afternoon. Enemy artillery was very active on the forward elements and continued active during entire period. The 37th Tank Battalion engaged enemy tanks and also received heavy anti-tank fire. The Infantry reported heavy house to house fighting in Singling during the afternoon. The weather continued to be cloudy with intermittent rain, with possibility of snow or sleet. Trafficabilities continued to be poor. Casualties admitted today were 32 wounded and 25 combat exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 5 wounded and 13 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 27 wounded and 29 combat exhaustion cases.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion, is located at Burbach. Company B, 46th Medical Battalion is at Sarreweren.

The 37th Tank Battalion reported one aid man killed in action and one aid man wounded in action who was dead on arrival at Company A, 46th Medical Battalion. A 46th Medical Battalion ambulance working with the 37th Tank Battalion was knocked

out of action by artillery fire. Two aid men from the 46th Medical Battalion were put out of action, one killed in action and one wounded in action.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 46th Medical Battalion - 2; 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1; 8th Tank Battalion - 1; 37th Tank Battalion - 3; 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion - 1.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today. The following is a recapitulation of prisoner of war casualties treated since 9 November through 6 December, inclusive, day by day:

<u>November</u>	<u>POW's Treated</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>POW's Treated</u>
9	0	29	7
10	2	28	3
11	0	29	1
12	1	30	1
13	2		
14	0	<u>December</u>	
15	0	1	2
16	0	2	9
17	0	3	3
18	0	4	1
19	0	5	5
20	0	6	0
21	0		
22	0		
23	1		
24	0		
25	4		
26	0		

7 December 1944 - Thursday.

No change was reported in front lines by the forward elements. In general, considerable artillery fire fell on all forward units during the period 7 December. Tanks were active with small arms and mortar fire in the vicinity of Singling early 7 December. Slight enemy activity reported at close of day. Casualties for today were 38 wounded and 25 combat exhaustion cases. 4 wounded and 17 combat exhaustion cases were returned to duty and we transferred to hospitals 34 wounded and 19 combat exhaustions cases.

The total number of casualties being treated at Company C, 46th Medical Battalion, today, is as follows: 253rd Armored Field Artillery - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 33; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 27; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 33; 8th Tank Battalion - 7; 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion - 5; 179th Field Artillery - 1; 37th Tank Battalion - 4; 35th Tank Battalion - 8; 126th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion - 1; 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 2; 46th Medical Battalion - 1; 3804th QM Truck Company - 2; 456th Ambulance Company - 1; 4th Armored Division Trains - 1; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1; 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 2; Combat Command B - 1; and 1 Allied French attached to Combat Command A.

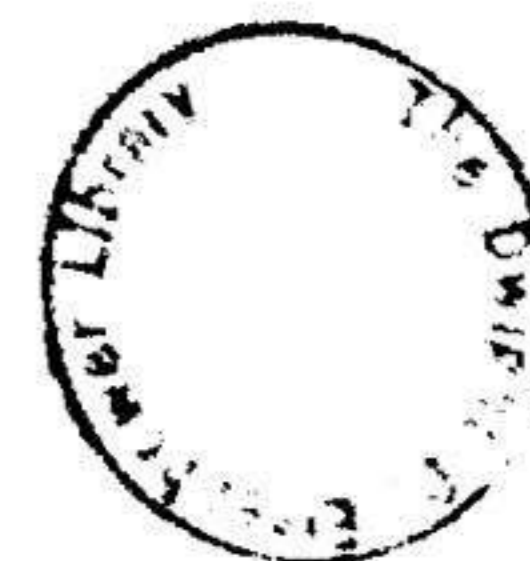
There were no killed in action cases within the 4th Armored Division today.

No prisoner of war casualties were treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

The Surgeon's Office in the Administrative Center moved to Dierze today.

For the Surgeon:

DANIEL R. RITZER  
Captain, M.C.  
Office Executive



**JOURNAL**  
**DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE**

From : 0001 8 December 1944  
 To : 2400 20 December 1944  
 Place: France

4th Armored Division Office of Surgeon Journal, August 2  
 1944 - February 22, 1945

8 to 18 December 1944 inclusive:

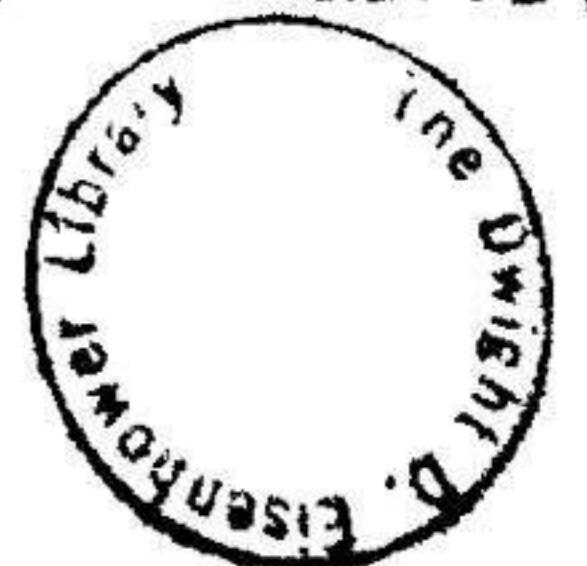
During this phase the 4th Armored Division was relieved from its sector by the 12th Armored Division. During our relief, we suffered several casualties from artillery fire, however, the relief was accomplished successfully.

During the period of relief, we sent aid men who were unsatisfactorily trained to the Medical Battalion for a five day course in medical training. The following schedule was the one followed for this training:

TIME	SUBJECT	INSTRUCTOR
<u>1st Day</u>		
0900-0950	Organization and Function of the Medical Service of an Armored Division	To be selected from Reserve Company
1000-1050	Elementary Anatomy and Physiology	
1300-1450	Wounds, types and dressings; Use of Morphine Syrette	
1500-1650	Bones and Joints; Fractures and Sprains	
<u>2nd Day</u>		
0900-1050	Treatment of Shock	
1100-1150	Hemorrhage; Pressure Points; Manuel Cont	
1300-1450	Hemorrhage; Control, Review of pressure points; Use of Tourniquet (Br. and U. S.)	
1500-1650	Splinting and Bandaging	
<u>3rd Day</u>		
0900-0950	Treatment of Burns	
1000-1150	Diagnosis and Proper Abbreviations	
1300-1450	Preparation of EMT's; explanation and application	
1500-1650	Splinting and Bandaging	
<u>4th Day</u>		
0900-0950	Use of Plasma	
1000-1050	Ambulance loading (Peep Ambulances)	
1100-1150	Review, Hemorrhage control	
1300-1350	Review, Treatment of Shock	
1400-1450	Preparation of EMT's	
1500-1650	Splinting and Bandaging	
<u>5th Day</u>		
0900-1050	Dressing the Litter and Litter Carrying	
1100-1150	EXAMINATION	
1300-1350	Correction of Examination	
1400-1650	Splinting and Bandaging	

During the period 9 November 7 December, the medical department suffered the following losses:

Wounded in Action- - - - -	39	(9 returned to duty)
Killed in Action - - - - -	15	
Missing in Action- - - - -	3	
Non battle casualties- - - - -	42	(23 of which were replacements that joined us after 1 November)
<b>TOTAL- - - - -</b>	<b>99</b>	





During this same period, 9 November 7 December, we had five ambulances and five peeps completely destroyed by artillery fire, one ambulance destroyed by mines, one ambulance missing in action, and three ambulances were temporarily out of action because of damage due to artillery fire. Most of the aid men were lost due to artillery fire and the highest percentage of these men were drivers.

The following is a list of awards made to medical department personnel during the period 9 November 21 December inclusive:

General Order No. 80, 9 November 1944. (Silver Star)

Tec 5 Paul R. Skayhan, 31311363, MD, 10th Armd Inf Bn.  
Tec 3 Louis R. Ceriani, 32091762, MD, 10th Armd Inf Bn.  
Captain John R. Mabee, O-435162, MC, 10th Armd Inf Bn.

General Order No. 81, 10 November 1944. (Purple Heart).

None

General Order No. 82, 11 November 1944. (Bronze Star).

Lt Col Morris Abrams, O-399070, MC, Hq 4th Armored Division, 28 August 15 October 1944, France.

General Order No. 84, 13 November 1944. (Bronze Star).

Captain, Herman R. Cohn, O-421199, MC, Div Arty.  
Captain Abraham J. Moskovtiz, O-381492, MC, 46th Med Bn Armd.  
Captain William R. Gromer, O-370029, DC, 46th Med Bn Armd.  
S/Sgt Darold C. Smith, 37263083, MD, 489th AAA, AW, Bn.

General Order No. 89, 21 November 1944. (Bronze Star).

Captain Henry H. Lansman, O-331394, MC, 16th Field Hospital.  
1st Lt Helen R. Cosma, N-703660, ANC, 16th Field Hospital.  
Tec 4 Jacob Kreisel, 32440597, MD, 16th Field Hospital.  
Tec 4 Crawford M. Spring, 31128185, MD, 1st Auxillary Surgical Group.  
S/Sgt Eugene B. Adam, 35104056, MD, 46th Med Bn Armd.  
Tec 5 Lewis L. Smith, 33585114, MD, 489th AAA, AW, Bn.

General Order No. 93, 5 December 1944. (Silver Star).

Tec 5 George W. Briffin, 38520907, MD, 10th Armd Inf Bn.

General Order No. 96, 13 December 1944. (Purple Heart).

Captain Daniel E. Kifner, O-1534059, MAC, Hq 4th Armored Division.

We experienced difficulty in evacuating due to the mud. At one time we evacuated 81 casualties in one day by two light tanks. These tanks could carry one litter across the turret and two on the back of the tank. We also put into use tank recovery vehicles and halftracks. The Medical Detachment, 35th Tank Battalion, has been experimenting with the "Weasel". It has not yet been determined whether this vehicle will be more satisfactory than the peep in cross country evacuation. The tank recovery vehicles and halftracks would carry the patients to a given collecting point where the peeps would then pick up the casualties and bring them to the Battalion Aid Station.

With the onset of cold weather we experienced some difficulty in putting plasma into solution. It was necessary to warm the water to body temperature at least before the plasma would go into solution.

When the weather became inclement and cold we started moving our medical installations, including Battalion Aid Stations, into buildings whenever possible. Medical Installations were given priority ahead of Headquarters and other units for building space. We had never before placed our medical installations in buildings.

All Dental Officers were relieved from combat units and put to work with the Companies of the Medical Battalion. In this way we conserved medical department officers and gave the units greater opportunity for dental service. It was almost impossible for Dental Officers to set up their chairs and chests when moving with combat units since the unit did not remain in place for any length of time whatsoever. Being situated in the medical companies will give the dental officers some opportunity to remain in place and practice dentistry. The Medical Administrative Corps Officers who replaced the Dental Officers as Assistant Combat Command Surgeons have proven themselves satisfactory.

Captain Fisher, 1st Auxillary Surgical Group, is working with the Administrative Center. It is deemed conducive to the greater output of work for him to be located in the Administrative Center since he is afforded greater protection from the elements and has indoor working space. Also, by his working in the Administrative Center, he will not have to move as often as he would if working with one of the medical companies. Captain Kierscht is also set up in the Administrative Center and examines all replacements and returnees to the division and gives dental attention to the personnel of the Administrative Center.

The following is a list of changes in Medical Department Officers covering the period 9 November 7 December and 8 December 20 December inclusive:

Assignments:

Leventhal, Harry (NMI), O-507219, Captain, MC, Assigned to 4th Armored Division per paragraph 2, SO #199, Hq, 4th Armored Division, dated 23 November 1944.

Promotions:

Hodge, Francis G., O-1533580, Captain, MAC, promoted from 1st Lt to Captain per paragraph 2, SO #277, Hq Third U. S. Army, 1 December 1944.

Ridge, Francis E., O-1547434, 1st Lt, MAC, promoted from 2nd Lt to 1st Lt per paragraph 8, SO #262, Hq ETOUSA, 16 November 1944.

Transferred:

Moskovitz, Abraham J., O-381492, Captain, MC, transferred to 101st Evac Hosp, 12 December 1944. (Authority: Cir Ltr 69, HQ ETOUSA, 13 June 1944).

Buege, Royal R., O-298185, Captain, DC, Transferred to 104th Evac Hosp, 14 December 1944. (Authority: Same as above).

Smith, Frank P., O-1691077, Captain, MC, transferred to 101st Evac Hosp, 18 December 1944. (Authority: Same as above).



The following is a list of Trench Foot cases, day by day, suffered by the division during the period 9 November 7 December 1944 inclusive:

<u>November</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
9	0	25	12
10	3	26	25
11	18	27	13
12	22	28	27
13	37	29	18
14	26	30	15
15	73		
16	31		
17	49		
18	20		
19	0		
20	0		
21	9		
22	12		
23	6		
24	12		

December

1	6
2	9
3	14
4	13
5	12
6	7
7	10

**TOTAL 499**

19 to 20 December 1944 inclusive:

The Division moved to a new sector and was assigned to the III Corps. The Road March was carried out with the minimum number of casualties. The Division moved from its concentration area at Penetrance and Dieuze to an area West and Northwest of Arlon, Belgium. Division Headquarters was set up in the City of Arlon.

The 274th and 253rd Field Artillery Battalions are supporting us in this sector.

Information contained in Circular 140, Headquarters ETOUSA, Office of the Surgeon, was distributed to all Battalion Surgeons. This Circular contained information on the Hospitalization and Evacuation of Civilians.

Circular 327, War Department, Washington, D. C., 8 August 1944, rescinded the change in T/O which placed a Sanitary Corps Officer in the Division Medical Inspector's position. The position still calls for Major, Medical Corps. No other changes were made in the T/O and E. The Medical Inspector's position was the only one affected.

All Unit Personnel Officers were notified to write to the Seine Base Sector, APO 113, Attention: Adjutant General, for necessary MD AGO Form No. 65-10, (Geneva Red Cross Cards).

Headquarters and Company C, 46th Medical Battalion, moved from Dieuze to the South side of Rheon.

The 64th Medical Group is now supporting the division.

For the Surgeon:

**DANIEL R. KIFNER**  
Captain, MAC  
Office Executive



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of this

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HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
Office of the Chief Surgeon  
APO 887

FILE: 319.1

18 December 1944

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 143

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Circular Letter No. 179, Office of the Chief Surgeon, dated 7 Dec 43, is rescinded.

2. a. AR 40-1005 and Letter AG 319.1 (9.15.42) EG-II, War Department, 22 September 42, Subject: "Annual Reports, Medical Department Activities." require an annual report of the Commanding Officer of each Theater of Operation Medical Unit, from the Surgeon of each Army, Corps, Division, Air Force, Base Command and independent tactical unit.

b. The annual report for 1944 should be submitted in duplicate on or before 31 Jan 45 and will be addressed to The Surgeon General through technical channels.

3. These annual reports are among the most important records of the medical service and constitute the principal basis of the history of the Medical Department in this war, now being assembled. They should be largely narrative in style and give a continuous story of the events of the entire year. All aspects should be thoroughly covered, the failures as well as the successes. Wherever important decisions or actions are involved, these should be documented, by including as inclosures, copies of the papers concerned.

4. The following is an outline of some of the more important subjects that should be discussed when applicable:

- a. Date of activation and early history, (in detail if first annual report in ETO).
- b. Specific details of operations. Missions. Changes and adaptations of organization to meet various situations. Use of cellular units.
- c. Military and civilian personnel.
- d. Training of personnel; equipment, literature, training aids, participation in exercises, special courses.
- e. Equipment, supplies and transportation.

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- f. Improvisations of techniques, procedures and equipment.
- g. Conservation of material and manpower.
- h. Housing; water supply; bathing facilities; laundry.
- i. Food and messing; sewage and waste disposal, insect control.
- j. Venereal disease control.
- k. Professional medical and surgical services.
  - (1) New methods of diagnosis and treatment.
  - (2) Treatment of battle casualties.
- l. Nursing, dental and veterinary service.
- m. Evacuation.
- n. Welfare, social service and recreation.
- o. Other subjects of interest.

5. Special Features for Field Force Units Reports.

a. In compiling the reports of medical units of the Field Forces, there should be due consideration given to the relationship of the movements and operations of these units to the general military picture, strategical and tactical. There should be detailed descriptions of the functioning of units of all echelons, giving special consideration to problems encountered under different conditions of terrain, weather and military operations. Emphasis should be given to the distinctive features of these problems peculiar to medical service with the different arms and services, under combat conditions. The report should include full discussions of the handling and treatment of battle casualties and the problems of evacuation. In reporting on medical supply problems, the outline as given in paragraph 6d below may be utilized where applicable.

b. "After Action Reports" as called for by AR 345-105 and other theater directives contain a large amount of valuable material and will be utilized as sections of the annual report. This will obviate the necessity of covering the same subjects again. Copies of such reports will be submitted in duplicate.

c. Operational maps showing the location of medical units with relation to combat units will be appended to the annual report if military conditions permit.

6. Special Features for Communications Zone Reports.

a. General.

- (1) The annual reports of the Surgeons of the Base Commands, i.e., United Kingdom Base, Southern Line of Communications,

R E S T R I C T E D

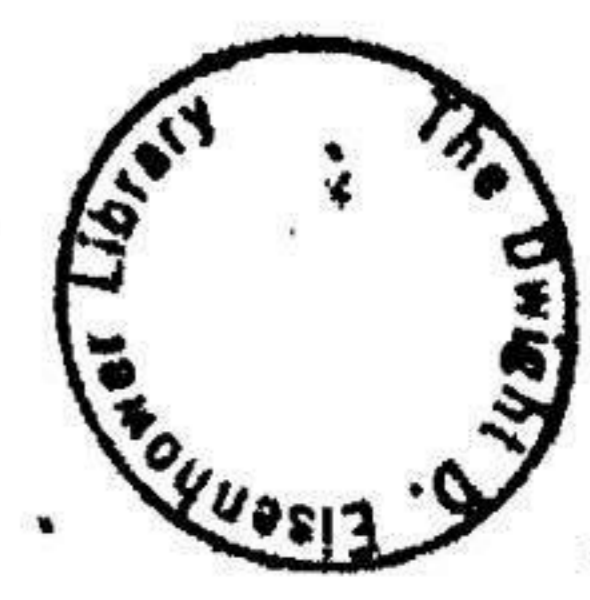
and Base Sections, will include the overall picture of the organization of the command, the details of organization and activities of the Surgeon's Office; changes in organization, problems encountered; It should include material relating to other Base Sections absorbed during the calendar year. Situation maps for Com Z installations need not be submitted since they are already available through the Essential Technical Medical Data reports.

b. United Kingdom Base Units and Installations. In addition to the subjects outlined in paragraph 4 above, the following special items should be discussed when applicable; reception and staging of new units, taking over of installations by new units, construction problems of newly converted installations, expansion of plants, problems of administration under hospital centers and groups; special features of treatment of battle casualties; care of Prisoners of War; coordination of evacuation, boarding and evacuation of patients to the Zone of Interior.

c. Continental Units and Installations. In addition to the subjects outlined in paragraph 4 above, the following special items should be discussed when applicable; preparations for cross channel movement, training, staging; special problems of voyage, embarkation and debarkation, problems of supply and equipment; staging on continent, activities of personnel on detached service; details of new installations, selection of sites, construction of hospitals, tented or by use of existing buildings; problems of functioning in a new location; details of activities and care of battle casualties; problems connected with evacuation.

d. COM Z Medical Supply Units and Installations. Reports from U. K. Base will be on the basis of installations; that is, from Medical Depots and Medical sections of General Depots; while those from the continent will be on the basis of units, from Medical Supply Depot companies. The latter will devote separate sections of the report for each installation operated. The reports will cover the following subjects:

- (1) Date of activation and early history.
- (2) Specific details of operations.
  - (a) Type of depot; organization, with charts.
  - (b) Missions - at various times; major jobs done.
  - (c) Progress made in depot operations - receipt, warehousing, including loose stock room, issue, stock accounting, flow of documents, inventory procedures, packing, documentation.
- (3) Expansion since activation.
- (4) Utilization and training of military and civilian personnel; use of prisoners of war and cooperators.



R E S T R I C T E D

- (5) Housing, equipment and facilities, including rail sidings, etc.; use of materials handling equipment.
- (6) Assembling and breaking down of unit equipment.
- (7) Prevention of waste, conservation of manpower.
- (8) Other subjects, including special problems.

7. Reports should include suitable photographs, pertinent statistical tables, and well-planned charts and diagrams when necessary to enhance the value of narrative portions. Other documents of interest and relating to the medical service should be appended to the reports. All such material will be submitted in duplicate.

By order of the Chief Surgeon:

*H. W. Doan*  
H. W. DOAN, *jr*  
Colonel, Medical Corps,  
Executive Officer.

*Capt. [Signature]*



JOURNAL  
DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE

From : 0001 21 December 1944  
To : 2400 31 December 1944  
Place: France

4th Armored Division Office of Surgeon Journal, August 2  
1944 - February 22, 1945

21 December 1944 - Thursday.

The enemy continued attacks in this sector exerting his main effort in the vicinity of Bastogne. Heavy fighting occurred in the vicinity of Neffe and Noville. The enemy is now entering the "Greif" phase of the attack. The enemy closed in on hills from three sides and captured Eschdorf. The enemy maintained strong pressure on the 28th Infantry Division's South Flank and in the 9th Armored Division sector. There has been further enemy infiltration in the LaRoche area with the capture of Marcourt and Samree. Enemy observed moving in the direction of St. Hubert. Casualties today were 3 wounded and 1 combat exhaustion cases. 3 wounded were evacuated to hospitals.

The Division Surgeon's Office at Dieuze made preparations for movement to the vicinity of Longuyon.

Captain Buchanan was ordered to Company C, 46th Medical Battalion and as soon as transportation is available he will report there for duty.

The Division Medical Supply Officer has 45,000 vitamin capsules available. These vitamin capsules can be secured by requisition.

Major Mericle, Division Neuropsychiatrist, was evacuated to the 12th Evacuation Hospital for observation and medical service.

There were no killed in action cases in the 4th Armored Division for this date.

No prisoner of war casualties were treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

22 December 1944 - Friday.

Combat Command B was in contact with the enemy in the vicinity of Burnon. Combat Command A was in contact in the vicinity of Martelange and Troop A, 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized was in contact in the vicinity of Bigonville. Combat Command A and B's advance was delayed by bad road conditions and blown bridges. Enemy activity was confined to small arms harrassing fire on afternoon of 22 December and light artillery fire on Combat Command B bridging operations in the vicinity of Burnon. Combat Command A met no resistance in Martelange. Casualties admitted today were 8 wounded and 1 combat exhaustion case. These cases were transferred to hospitals.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion is located West of Arlon and Company B, 46th Medical Battalion located at Rulles. Company C, 46th Medical Battalion is still at Rheon.

The following hospitals have opened and are located as follows: 103rd Evacuation Hospital - Longuyon; 110 Evacuation Hospital - Esch; and our Platoon of the 16th Field Hospital is at Messaney. We are also using Messaney as an ambulance control point and are relaying patients from there.

Colonel Abrams made arrangements with Colonel Smith, Division Surgeon of the 26th Infantry Division, (on our right flank), to take care of the 26th's non-transportable cases in our Field Hospital. Colonel Smith is keeping his Field



Hospital mobile and will make the first jump on the continuation of our plan of "leap frogging" Field Hospitals.

The division is short two Medical Corps Officers and two Dental Corps Officers.

There were no killed in action cases in the 4th Armored Division this date.

No prisoner of war casualties were treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

23 December 1944 - Saturday.

The 25th Cavalry reported contact in the vicinity of Nives and Cobreville. Combat Command B reported contact in the vicinity of Remoiville and Chaumont. Combat Command A moving North from Martelange. Reserve Command reported contact in the vicinity of Southwest of Bigonville. Combat Command B encountered enemy counterattack in the vicinity of Chaumont which was very well organized with four or more tanks, some infantry, small arms, bazooka, and artillery fire, and continued to press slowly forward at end of period against stubborn resistance. Reserve Command encountered some armored vehicles, mines and road blocks South of Bigonville in the afternoon. We received in our medical installations 38 wounded and 32 combat exhaustion cases. 35 wounded and 25 combat exhaustion cases were transferred to hospitals.

The committing of the Reserve Command has increased the problem of the medical department. To adequately give the Reserve Command medical support it is necessary to stretch our medical companies and to call more army ambulances. The ambulance situation is becoming critical.

Company B, 46th Medical Battalion, reported in new location at Anlier.

The Division Surgeon's Office in the Administrative Center moved to new area approximately one mile West of Morfontaine.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 8th Tank Battalion - 4; 37th Tank Battalion - 2; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 6; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 3; 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 1; 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion - 1.

Our Clearing Stations treated and evacuated two prisoner of war casualties today.

24 December 1944 - Sunday.

No change in front lines has been reported by our forward elements. In general, Combat Command A encountered heavy anti-tank and small arms fire during night 23-24 December in their advance to the North in the vicinity of Warnach. Snipers and anti-tank fire delayed the advance on 24 December. Enemy patrols active with bazooka teams attempting to infiltrate our positions in the vicinity of Chaumont. Bodange was taken against light resistance by Combat Command A. Combat Command B moved through Bigonville and took position on high ground North of town against small arms and artillery fire coming from Boulaide. Reserve Command was bombed and strafed by unidentified planes. Heavy fighting was in progress all along the wedge the Germans have driven into Belgium. Our medical installations admitted 191 wounded and 111 combat exhaustion cases. 5 wounded were returned to duty and 169 wounded and 92 combat exhaustion cases were transferred to hospitals. These admissions were not all from the 4th Armored Division. A great number were from the 28th Infantry Division and 9th Armored Division and Corps and Army troops. Some of these

admissions suffered from exposure to the elements coupled with wounds.

Captain McLeod is acting as Combat Command Reserve Surgeon and Lieutenant Pollak is the Medical Administrative Corps Officer.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 8th Tank Battalion - 2; 37th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 5; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 5; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 16; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1; 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 1.

Our Clearing Stations treated and evacuated fourteen prisoner of war casualties today.

25 December 1944 - Monday.

Combat Command A reported contact Northwest of Tintange and North of Hollange. Combat Command B reported contact South and West of Hompre. Reserve Command reported in contact in the vicinity of Clochimont. The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized reported in contact at Sure - Nives - Cobreville. Reserve Command encountered some direct tank fire and considerable small arms fire in clearing Remoiville late 25 December. Enemy air reported over Reserve Command late 25 December. Casualties for today were 101 wounded and 61 combat exhaustion cases. 2 wounded were returned to duty and 99 wounded and 55 combat exhaustion cases were transferred to hospitals.

Frostbite cases sustained since operations began in this sector are as follows: 23 December - 2; 24 December - 16; 25 December - 21.

The 16th Field Hospital reports they have twenty-nine patients in the hospital, eight of which are pre-operative. The Commanding Officer of the 16th Field Hospital is opening another ward and putting both teams on duty.

Major Mericle returned to duty from the 12th Evacuation Hospital today.

The weather has turned cold with the maximum temperature of 40° and a minimum of 20°. The cold and snow have brought out an additional casualty producing agent, namely, frostbite. All possible action and education in the prevention of frostbite is being taken. Adequate clothing has been issued to troops.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 5; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1.

Our Clearing Stations treated and evacuated 22 prisoner of war casualties today.

26 December 1944 - Tuesday.

Combat Command A in contact Northwest Tintange. Combat Command B in contact South Hompre. Reserve Command in contact Clochimont. 25th Cavalry in contact along line Sure - Nives - Cobreville-. Combat Command B received heavy mortar fire from Northeast Hollange. Reserve Command received small arms and direct tank fire in clearing Remoiville. Casualties reported for today were 172 wounded and 85 combat exhaustion cases. 167 wounded and 73 combat exhaustion cases were evacuated to hospitals.



Frostbite cases have shown a marked increase within the last 48 hours. Some cases definitely show poor "foot discipline" such as tight fitting shoes, failure to wear overshoes, failure to remove shoes at least once a day.

Company B, 46th Medical Battalion is at Fauvillers and Company A, 46th Medical Battalion is now located at Martelange.

There were 35 cases of frostbite in the 4th Armored Division this date.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1; 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1; 8th Tank Battalion - 4; 35th Tank Battalion - 4; 37th Tank Battalion - 2; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 3; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 4; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 5.

4th Armored Division Clearing Stations treated and evacuated 81 prisoner of war casualties today.

27 December 1944 - Wednesday.

Combat Command A in contact Livarchamps and Sainle. Combat Command B in contact North of Assenois with Reserve Command. Reserve Command, 4th Armored Division, broke through enemy defenses South of Bastogne late 26 December against fairly heavy opposition consisting of small arms, anti-tank, artillery fire and box mines, encountered direct tank fire from Sibret night 26-27 December. Combat Command A advanced north against fairly heavy resistance and cleared Livarchamps. Combat Command B moved north to vicinity East of Assenois against machine gun, small arms, and artillery fire. 113 wounded and 53 combat exhaustion cases were admitted today. 9 wounded and 12 exhaustions were returned to duty and 113 wounded and 41 exhaustions were evacuated to hospitals.

46th Medical Battalion, Armored, ambulance relay point is located in Railroad Station at Stockem on Highway N 48.

Information was received today that 35th Evacuation Hospital opened in Luxembourg City.

12 Aid Men were received and distributed as follows: 35th Tank Battalion - 2; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 4; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 8th Tank Battalion - 2.

There were 15 cases of frostbite in the 4th Armored Division this date.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 10; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 5; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 2.

4th Armored Division Clearing Stations treated and evacuated 48 prisoner of war casualties today.

28 December 1944 - Thursday.



Reserve Command in contact with the enemy in Bastogne - Assenois - Clochmont. Combat Command B in contact North of Bois De Bechu. Combat Command A in contact West of Lutrebois. All elements of division received heavy small arms and artillery fire during the advance. Elements in vicinity of Martelange and

Bastogne were bombed and strafed by enemy planes. Admissions today to our clearing stations were 77 wounded and 59 exhaustion cases. 6 wounded and 10 exhaustion cases were returned to duty and 75 wounded and 39 exhaustion cases were transferred to hospitals.

Some difficulty was experienced due to the fact that all evacuation hospitals supporting us were filled to capacity and it was necessary to evacuate casualties to Sedan.

There is a shortage of medical department forms due to the fact that rearward installations can not supply us. It was necessary to mimeograph the necessary forms.

Since we are operating with a new Medical Group and a new Corps we found that no ambulance regulating points have been established. As in the present situation where no ambulance regulating point has been established our ambulances carried patients for several hours before they could find evacuation hospitals capable of admitting casualties. It is vitally necessary that a regulating point be established by each corps in Medical Group as soon as possible.

Due to the long haul to evacuation hospitals we have set up a relay point at Hatchy. This relay point permits our ambulances to return to the medical companies much sooner.

Frostbite cases are on the increase. All possible measures for prevention of Frostbite are being taken.

There were 10 cases of Frostbite in the 4th Armored Division this date.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 4; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 6; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 3; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 3.

4th Armored Division Clearing Stations treated and evacuated 35 prisoner of war casualties today.

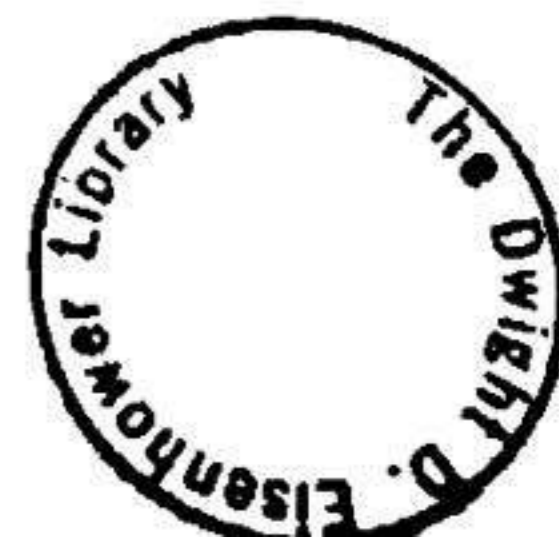
29 December 1944 - Friday.

Combat Command A encountered heavy and determined enemy resistance in its advance to the North 29th December but succeeded in making contact with the 101st Air Borne Division in the vicinity of Marvie. Combat Command B received scattered Artillery and small arms fire in its advance. No change was reported in the Reserve Command and 25th Cavalry. Casualties admitted today were 35 wounded and 19 combat exhaustion cases. 1 wounded man and 24 exhaustion cases were returned to duty and 32 wounded and 15 exhaustions were evacuated to hospitals.

Some Medical Department reinforcements were received and three aid men were sent to the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion.

There were 17 cases of Frostbite in the 4th Armored Division this date.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1; 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 3.



4th Armored Division Clearing Stations treated and evacuated 5 prisoner of war casualties today.

30 December 1944 - Saturday.

Combat Command A, 9th Armored Division, in contact South of Chenogne. Combat Command A, 4th Armored Division in contact South of Lutrebois. Combat Command B and Combat Command Reserve report no change. Heavy enemy infantry and tank attacks were successfully repelled. Admissions to clearing stations were 54 wounded and 30 exhaustion cases. 4 wounded and 7 exhaustion cases were returned to duty and 51 wounded and 25 exhaustion cases were transferred.

All Medical Detachments are understrength due to severe casualties suffered in battle for Bastogne. Three Aid Men were sent to the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment.

There were 11 cases of Frostbite in the 4th Armored Division this date.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 10; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 9; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1.

4th Armored Division Clearing Station treated and evacuated 2 prisoner of war casualties today.

31 December 1944 - Sunday.

No change is reported in front lines. Counterattack launched early 30 December in vicinity of Lutrebois subsided in the early evening without loss of ground by 4th Armored Division units. During night 30 - 31 December enemy activity consisted primarily of rocket and artillery fire on the forward elements. Concentrations consisted of from 12 to 15 rounds at the time. Casualties admitted today numbered 27 wounded and 28 combat exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 3 wounded and 9 exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 25 wounded and 21 exhaustion cases.

There were 15 cases of Frostbite in the 4th Armored Division this date.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 11.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

For the Surgeon:

DANIEL R. KIFNER  
Captain, MAC  
Office Executive

